



SoLiS

Newsletter of the

Southeast Library System

November 2011

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Check out
Southeast
Library
System on
Facebook!

SOWINGS

By Brenda Ealey, Administrator

Let's Talk...

Neal Shusterman recently spoke with middle school and high school students across the state concerning his books, writing, and with one particular title, *Unwind*, the need to have conversations on issues without the politics. *Unwind*, which was the ALA Best Book for Young Adults, a Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Readers, a Starred Review in *School Library Journal*, and the 2010/11 One Book for Nebraska Teens, has had its share of attention for attempting to initiate dialogue and thought concerning what have become very polarizing issues. Here's a description of *Unwind* from the publisher's (Simon & Shuster) website – <http://books.simonandschuster.com:>

In America after the Second Civil War, the Pro-Choice and Pro-Life armies came to an agreement: The Bill of Life states that human life may not be touched from the moment of conception until a child reaches the age of thirteen. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, a parent may choose to retroactively get rid of a child through a process called "unwinding." Unwinding ensures that the child's life doesn't "technically" end by transplanting all the organs in the child's body to various recipients. Now a common and accepted practice in society, troublesome or unwanted teens are able to easily be unwound.

Description of the book alone has caused some to consider it a title that should not be on library shelves or encouraged as a book for young readers. As librarians we realize the danger in being caught up in reactive response by media, or parents, or administrators that don't look further than a one-paragraph description. That's why it's so important that librarians are involved in the discussion and respected as the professionals they are. Their efforts to provide a collection that attempts to go beyond bias and partisanship should be valued.

(Continued on page 14)

SELS Summer

Reading Workshop

Beatrice Public Library

November 17, 2011

9:00 to 9:30 Welcome & morning refreshments

9:30 to 10:30 Lindsey Tomsu presents Vampire Literature

10:45 to 11:30 Lindsay Rogers, Wildlife Education Specialist
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, presents Nocturnal
Animals

11:30 to 12:30 Brainstorming

12:30 to 1:30 Lunch and use of die cut machines

1:30 to 2:30 Susan Weber presents on behalf of the Nebraska
State Quilt Guild

2:45 to 3:45 Sally Snyder presents Book Reviews

Die cut machines will be available for use until 4:30

This year's themes: Children's - Dream Big - Read;

Teen - Own the Night; Adult - Between the Covers

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

**Earn 5 CE hours. Registration deadline is November 14th. Send registration and \$15
(includes lunch from Valentino's) to:**

Southeast Library System

5730 R St, Ste C1

Lincoln, NE 68505

Southeast Library Barnes & Noble Bookfairs

SAVE
THE DATE

Saturday, November 26
Barnes & Noble SouthPointe
2910 Pine Lake Road
Lincoln, NE

Plan now to support SELS!

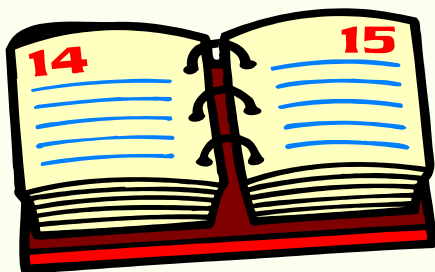
- Free Librarian reception from 10:00 a.m. – noon
Coffee, scones, promotional material, and more!
 - Free Nook class at 1:00
- Free gift wrapping from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit BN.COM/bookfairs to support us online from 11/26/11 to 11/30/11
by entering Bookfair ID 10579548 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school/organization.





CALENDAR

November 2011

November 7th – 18th – Basic Skills – Intellectual Freedom and the Core Values of Librarianship. You can register online at the Nebraska Library Commission Training Calendar (www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp). For a complete list of the Basic Skills modules, go to: www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/basic/NBScalendar2011.html.

November 12th – National Gaming Day – register at: <http://svy.mk/ngd11reg>, and find more information at: <http://ngd.ala.org/category/2011-national-gaming-day/>.

November 14th – The annual Public Library Statistical Survey from the Nebraska Library Commission is released.

November 17th – SELS Summer Reading Workshop at Beatrice Public Library. See page 2 for details.

November 18th – NLA Board Meeting at 1 p.m. at the Millard Branch of the Omaha Public Library.

November 26th – SELS Friends Book Fair at Barnes & Noble South Pointe or online until November 30th using Bookfair ID 10579548 at checkout. See page 3 for details.

November 28th – December 9th – Basic Skills – Collection Management. You can register online at the Nebraska Library Commission Training Calendar (www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp). For a complete list of the Basic Skills modules, go to: www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/basic/NBScalendar2011.html.

November 29th – E-rate Training for discounts on telephone and internet at Nebraska Library Commission – starting at 9:30. Computers will be available following instruction to work on filing of necessary forms online.

December 8th – CASTL Meeting at Pawnee City Public Library (602 11th St), starting at 10 a.m. We'll discuss the Bibliostat Survey report and have an E-Rate update then take a tour of the new library. Bring your favorite gift book for the book talk.

December 16th – SELS Board Meeting at the Cornhusker Bank Community Room (6100 Apple Way, Lincoln)

January 13th – CASTL Meeting at Geneva Public Library – meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. We'll discuss Library Annual Reports. For this month's book discussion please book talk a favorite cozy read of your choice. There will also be a round robin to share questions, ideas and happenings. Please let us know at the SELS office if you plan on attending.

January 20th – 24th – ALA Midwinter in Dallas.

February 9th – CASTL meeting at Auburn Memorial Library

February 13th – Nebraska Public Library Survey due

February 17th – SELS Board Meeting at Pawnee City Public Library

February 27th – NLA Legislative Day in Lincoln

News Around the System

Returning Books Is An Event At Seward Memorial Library



Trying out the new book return.

By Charlotte Baldinger & Megan Boggs, Seward Memorial Library

With a higher level of anticipation than normal, pre-school children attending Story Time hurry through the doors at Seward Memorial Library with their book bags. The new brightly painted mobile house on wheels makes returning books a special event, and they love filling this friendly structure. To alleviate the frequent congestion at the return slot in the front desk, little patrons now have their own book return in the Children's Room area. The October addition to the library is not only attractive, but is beneficial to all. Returning books has never been so much fun!

Run/Walk Fun for Bruun Memorial Library

From Jorene Herr, Bruun Memorial Library

On October 1st, the Friends of Bruun Memorial Library in Humboldt had their 5K Run/1 Mile Walk. About 75 people registered. A few just came to enjoy the brunch provided by the Friends of the Auditorium. There was a great spread of pecan rolls, cinnamon rolls, kolaches, fresh and mixed fruit, cereal, breakfast

casserole, breakfast burritos, and of course, coffee, juice and hot chocolate.

All of the kids in attendance got a book. Some dressed up as their favorite character and got two books.

There were even a couple of dogs who came for the walk and probably wanted to try out the brunch, too. One was appropriately dressed in his Husker shirt.

Being a SELS Board Member Can Be Hard Work

From Brenda & Jen

The Southeast Library System is in the midst of an office space remodeling project thanks to a donation from the SELS Friends for paint and carpet, and thanks to volunteer labor of staff, board, family & friends.

The first phase involved sorting, tossing and recycling. For the second phase we put paint on the walls. We're now anticipating finding carpet to install for phase 3.

The office is going to look great!

Stay tuned!

SELS Board
Vice
President
Glenda
Willnerd
tackles
painting the
back wall.



{News Around the System}

Biblionix Stipend Recipient Shares Tips from NLA/NEMA Conference

By Alicia Graybill, Elmwood Public Library

Having been to NLA/NEMA conferences before, I was expecting to get some good information (and, to be truthful, some cool goodies too.) The 2011 NLA/NEMA Conference was held in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott. It was a great experience and I learned a lot. There were some wonderful surprises as well as the chance to network with other librarians and friends from all across the state.

The first program I attended was a pre-conference on Wednesday, October 5. Called "Keeping the Bricks and Mortar in Shape to Keep the Books on the Shelf," it was sponsored by the Paraprofessional section and featured speakers from Stroh Service and Leo A. Daly to talk about calculating maintenance (and eventual replacement) costs of facilities as well as how to make our facilities' more energy efficient. Unfortunately, I did not get to stay for the second half with the speakers from Leo A. Daly but Randy Herrick and Dave Miller from Stroh Service gave me a great deal to think about. Stroh Service is an Omaha area company providing mechanical services to a variety of institutions (libraries included.) Some of the ideas they shared:

1. Make sure your staff's skills are being used most effectively. Don't have a staff-member tinker around with the central air for six hours if they don't know what they're doing.
2. Regular cleanings, once every 1-6 months depending upon circumstances, pay off in the long run, both by allowing your machinery to be more energy efficient and by extending their useful life.
3. Ask your local power company to provide you with a free energy audit but be skeptical if they seem overly eager to get you to install "new" equipment when your current equipment is still working well.

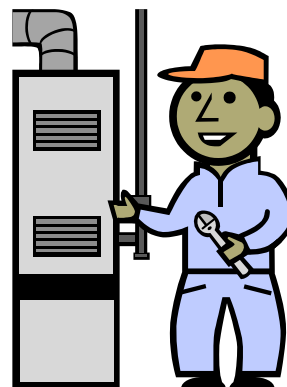
On Thursday, I attended "Turning Your Library Around" sponsored by the Public Library and Trustee Section which was quite interesting. South Sioux City Library is much bigger than

Elmwood but some of their strategies to improve program attendance and boost circulation figures would work for any smaller public library. I also attended "Cooperation Conundrum" also sponsored by the PLTS.

The most important note I took at this presentation was "Cooperation is hard but worth the work." I must point out that the panel was composed of the most glamorous and beautiful four librarians I have ever seen. I followed that up with the presentation by Brent Catlett and Ann Feldmann on "Blogging and Globster" sponsored by the School, Children's and Young People's Section. I found out about a number of wonderful new tools that I'm hoping we can take advantage of here at Elmwood.

I also attended the "Craftable Library: Turning your library into a handmade how-to zone." While I'm not quite sure I'm going to be able to put all their fantastic suggestions to use, I do think I can tackle Summer Reading program craft projects with a bit more courage now. Preschool story time, though, may have to wait a year or two until I get comfortable with the idea of arming two year olds with scissors and markers. I was particularly eager to listen to Lindsey Tomsu speak about "Teen Advisory Boards and YOU!" Sponsored by the Young Adult Round Table, Lindsey gave some great ideas on what to do with your TAB, how to get one started, and some of the dos and don'ts of recruiting, retaining and creating a TAB. EPL has a teen book group that is currently at loose ends but I think they would make a great TAB.

On Friday, there were two main programs that I wanted to attend. The first was "Overdrive, e-devices and troubleshooting." It was definitely informative and made me realize that we will need to offer some sort of instruction for library



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{News Around the System}

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patrons on how to download e-books from the library to their devices. I also know that we have two or three patrons who already use e-readers who I may be able to recruit to teach those classes. (I'm talking about you, Eugenia!) The second was "Pioneer's Progress 2011" in regards to the Pioneer Consortium comprised of Lincoln City Libraries, Holdrege Public Library, St. Paul Public Library, and several other state libraries using open source software to form an integrated library system (ILS). While it may not be the answer for every library in the state, I found the presentation they made compelling

enough for EPL to pursue more information. We need to upgrade from our old Follett system and moving to a cloud-based open-source cataloging and circulation model seems to be the next step for us.

I also attended the very informative "Weeding collections: a four library perspective." I know it's really librarian-ish of me to say this but it's nice to know I'm not the only one who really doesn't want to part with the final (never-read) copy of the 1999 "What Color is Your Parachute?" Sometimes it hurts to be a librarian.

Who Knew Windows Could Be Such a Conversation Starter?

From Jorene Herr, Bruun Memorial Library

The city of Humboldt got an energy grant for new windows, with the library included. In September workers came to measure the windows, and did it by taking the windows out, measuring carefully, and replacing them with plywood. It was really dark! People thought the library was closed. Some thought a car had driven into the windows during the

fair. Other people said they were shot out with a BB gun, and that the library was vandalized. Jorene told curious visitors that library staff did it so they wouldn't have to wash the windows.

Now that all the work is done, they have really nice, double-paned windows that should be great this winter.

NLA/NEMA Session Wrap-Up

From Lisa Guthals, Morton-James Public Library

Wow! The 2011 NLA/NEMA Annual Conference was great. I am grateful to the SELS Friends for the scholarship that gave me the chance to attend on Friday. It has been a long time since I attended one. This years programming was excellent. I know it is a lot of work. Thank you to all those whose hard work made it such a great day for me.

The first two sessions I attended were the Golden Sower programs. The Skype session with Marty Crisp was very interesting on her book the true story of the cat on the Titanic.

Suzanne Collins gave a wonderful thank you for her award. She read from "The Hunger Games" with an accent. It is amazing how the author portrays a character and how we interpret it while reading. They also gave a tour of their website which was also great. I am now on their Golden Sower reading list.

My next session was "Into the Flames: An Exploration of Book Burning." The focus was on the destruction of books by fire over two thousand years. It may have a ceremony of burning, torching or shredding the book. Some of the ones that I remember him speaking of were the German bombing of the British Museum and Anne of Green Gables, when a book was destroyed because she did not do her chores.

The food at the Mad Hatter Luncheon was delicious. I am so pleased that Sally Snyder won the Mad Hatter Award. It was my first time seeing the award given. The skit was really good. And Sally, you really deserved it.



(Continued on page 8)

Sally Snyder



News Around the System



Jamie LaRue

(Continued
from page 9)

I am just going to touch on the key note speaker, as many attended, Jamie LaRue. He was very

motivating. One of his stories was of the Reference Librarian who became such an asset to the city. The thing I remember most is how we should move out to the community. It is our job to reach out to them.

The last session was with Sally Snyder, "Best Youth Books 2011". We all know how Sally really gets excited when she gives a book talk. She always gives me ideas of what to order for our collection. The handouts she gives are great!

Thank you for a great day!

Science Gets Wild at Seward Memorial Library

By Charlotte Baldinger & Megan Boggs, Seward Memorial Library

Children in Seward were amazed last June when mad scientist extraordinaire, Robert Zook, demonstrated how exciting science can be during his "Whizz, Squish, Kaboom! show. Mr. Zook, a science teacher in Omaha, returned to Seward on October 22 to present his "Science, Potions & Spells" program. Not only did he make science fascinating, but he involved the children in his experiments. His 45-minute program only required tables, water, and electricity, but the results were a huge success. The children discovered the wonder of testing materials: solids, liquids and gases, and with a little help from a chunk of dry ice, were thrilled with the surprising results. Mr. Zook concluded

his program with a challenge for the children to learn more at Seward Memorial Library, and then become powerful people in our world.

Zook and the children in a cloudy experiment.



Thanks from a SELS Friends Scholarship Recipient

From LaVonda Bando, Morton-James Public Library

What an honor to attend the NLA/NEMA Conference this year. I learned a lot of great information by attending the sessions on "Wellness for the Library & Beyond," presented by Marty Magee, about learning how to keep the library staff and the community healthy.

"Overdrive, e-devices & Troubleshooting," presented by Renee San Jose, told us to focus on helping your members use e-Devices and OverDrive with ease. "LibGuides@Your Library," presented by Martha Grenzback

and Marguerite Miller, showed how to create your web content and showcase library resources using your library website. I enjoyed visiting with the exhibitors and especially enjoyed the key note speaker, Jamie LaRue. He told us we need to get out of the library and into the community. I attended the afternoon session on Pioneer Progress 2011 presented by Pioneer Consortium. I learned about ILS (integrated library system) and the statewide union catalog.

I would like to thank again the SELS Friends for supporting me so I could attend the NLA/NEMA Annual Conference 2011.



{News Around the System}

Smart One-Liners And Then Some at NRLS Preconference

From Brenda

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems were thrilled to have Karen Hyman as the featured speaker at our preconference – “Shortcuts to Greatness, or 10 Things that Great Libraries Know and Maybe You Don’t”.

We had a fantastic turnout – 42 attending, and as promised Karen was entertaining, plus provided us with lots to consider and provoke us toward best serving library customers and our communities. Below are some of my favorite “Karenisms” from the conference:

- “Many people are still hoping yesterday will get better.”
- “Perfect leaders, like perfect mothers, are fictional.”
- “Your library is as friendly as your least friendly public service employee.”
- “If we are not the library that our customers want, that’s our fault.”
- “Go the extra mile. Put heart & soul and a spirit of fun into your library service.”



If you missed her presentation and want to check it out, her slides and handout are on our website at <http://www.selsne.org>.

2011 NEMA Awards

Distinguished Media Service Award: Glenda Willnerd (Lincoln Public Schools, Retired)

Sound Off for Media Award: Jayne Hlavac (Schuyler Central High School)

Meritorious Service Award: McCool Junction Learning Center, accepted by Librarian Marcia Clark

President’s Award: Jan Boyer (University of Nebraska at Omaha), NLA liaison to NEMA and conference co-chair

NEMA was also pleased to present Mary Reiman with a duplicate plaque for her Distinguished Media Service Award; the original was destroyed in the LPS District Office Fire.

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations and endorsements for nominations. For more information on the awards, visit <http://www.schoollibrariesrock.org/awards.html>.

2011 Nebraska Library Association Awards

Meritorious Service Award: Floyd Smith III (West Nebraska Family Research & History Center)

Mari Sandoz Award: E. Jane Graff (Seward)

Presidential Awards of Excellence: Scott Childers (University of Nebraska at Lincoln), Michael Straatmann (University

of Nebraska at Lincoln)

Legislative Committee: Robin Clark (chair), Nancy Larimer, Mary Reiman, Bev Russell, Kathy Tooker, Rod Wagner, Ken Winston, Michael Straatmann, Denise Lawyer, Brenda Ealey, Gayle Roberts

College & University Section Distinguished Service Award: Joyce Neujahr (University of Nebraska at

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{News Around the System}

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Omaha)

Paraprofessional Section Paraprofessional of the Year: Nancy Meyer (Eastern Library System)

Public Library & Trustee Section Excalibur Award: Bev Russell (Lied Scottsbluff Public Library)

Public Library & Trustee Section Advocacy Award
Wilma Eaton (Chadron Public Library)

School, Children's & Young People's Section Mad Hatter Award: Sally Snyder (Nebraska Library Commission)

Special & Institutional Section Promotional Award: Denise Morton (Omaha Correctional Center Library)

Special & Institutional Section Distinguished Service Award: Laura Thompson (Southeast Community College).

Nebraska's Star Libraries

America's Star Libraries were released in the November 1st issue of *Library Journal* (LJ). Nebraska libraries on the list included:

- Falls City Library & Arts Center
- Central City Public Library
- Hruska Memorial Public Library – David City
- Hartington Public Library
- Neligh Public Library
- Atkinson Public Library
- Battle Creek Public Library
- Wymore Public Library

Congratulations, everyone, and keep up the good work!

The LJ Index of Public Library Service 2011 is sponsored by Baker & Taylor's Bibliostat, and is based on 2009 data released by the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) in July

2011. You can find all the details in the *Library Journal* article by Keith Curry Lance and Ray Lyons. It includes information on Star libraries represented in 39 states, including Nebraska.



SELS Friends Cookbooks are still available!

They make great gifts for all the cooks in your life and at \$10 (tax included) you can't beat the price. Pair them with new dishtowels and utensils in a pretty basket and you have a thoughtful holiday gift that's sure to get lots of use!





For immediate release

Contact:
Amy Killebrew, Project Manager
IEEE Science Kits for Public Libraries
sciencekits@ieeechicago.org

IEEE-Chicago Section Extends Science Kits for Public Libraries Grant Application Deadline

Chicago, IL, November 4 – The IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)-Chicago Section's Science Kits for Public Libraries Grant currently offers up to \$2,000.00 in funding to public libraries in the Midwest for the development of math and science collections for pre-university students (K-12). The deadline for grant applications has been extended to December 15, 2011.

The Science Kits for Public Libraries Grant is an expansion of a pilot project supported by IEEE-Chicago Section's Chicago Fund. IEEE-Chicago Section identified an educational need and designed the Fund as a way to generate enthusiasm for math and science education, especially education about electrical engineering. The Mount Prospect Public Library (MPPL) in Mount Prospect, IL was the pilot project for the Fund.

Because of the Chicago Fund, MPPL librarians were able to develop science kits and give students access to prepared experiments and science materials that they might not encounter in the traditional classroom. Additionally, the MPPL librarians created the Mad Scientists Club, an educational program that allows students to conduct experiments at the library with the guidance of a librarian. Watch MPPL's Mad Scientist Club on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NRePbiwyak>) and view the kits in action.

Over 60 students have participated in Mad Scientists Club during the past year and registration for the library's first three programs filled up quickly. According to Mary Smith, Head of Youth Services at MPPL, "the enthusiasm for the Mad Scientist Club and the science kits indicates that students have a deep curiosity about the way the world works. The library is the perfect place to satisfy this curiosity."

The current Grant is designed to replicate and expand the success of the MPPL science kits in public libraries throughout the Midwest. According to Science Kits for Public Libraries Project Director, John Zulaski, "I was impressed by the innovation of MPPL's Youth Services Department and I believe that public libraries are an ideal place to make materials available for students to deepen their scientific knowledge."

The Science Kits for Public Libraries Grant is made possible due to \$40,000.00 in funding from the IEEE Foundation and IEEE Life Members Committee and an additional \$4,000.00 contributed by S&C Electric.

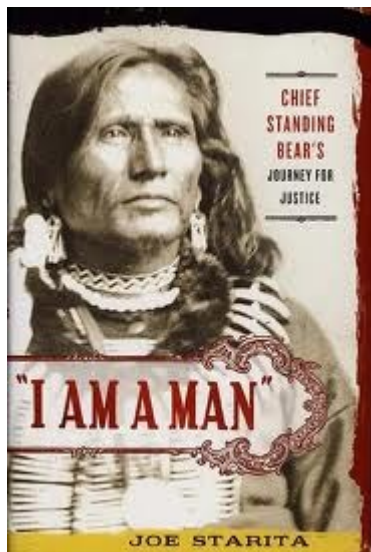
For more information and to learn about applying, visit ieeechicago.org and click on the Science Kits for Libraries tab.

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News and Notes



2012 One Book One Nebraska Announced

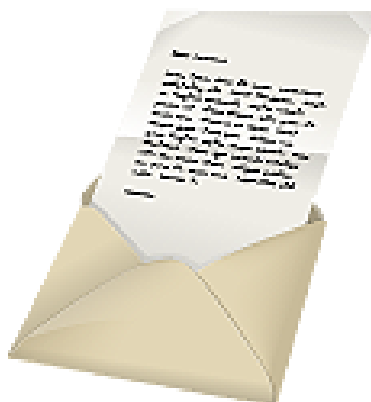


"I Am a Man": Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice, by Joe Starita is Nebraska's reading choice for the **2012 One Book One Nebraska** statewide reading program. The One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, is now in its eighth year. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting. A committee of the Nebraska Center for the Book selected the finalists from a list of forty-eight titles nominated by Nebraskans. After receiving nominations from across the state, the Nebraska Center for the Book board announced the choice for the 2012 One Book One Nebraska at the Celebration of Nebraska Books on October 22 in Lincoln.

Libraries across Nebraska will plan book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage

Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities will be available after January 1, 2012 at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/onebookone-nebraska>. One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, and Nebraska Library Commission.

For more information, contact Mary Jo Ryan, maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665, www.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov or <http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook>.



Young Readers Invited to Enter Letters about Literature Contest

Young readers in grades 4 - 12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for Letters about Literature (LAL), a national reading and writing promotion program. The letter can be to any author (living or dead) from any genre—fiction or

nonfiction, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author's work changed the student's view of the world. This reading and writing promotion is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target. In Nebraska, Letters about Literature is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book and Nebraska Library Commission.

LAL awards prizes on both the state and national levels. Students compete in three grade levels: Level 1 for grades 4 - 6; Level 2 for grades 7 - 8; and Level 3 for grades 9 - 12. Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing at www.lettersaboutliterature.org.

Submissions must be postmarked **by January 6, 2012**. State winners will be notified in March 2012 and national winners by mid-April. Nebraska-specific information (including letters from Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>.

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665.

The Buzz on Book Groups

The November CASTL meeting was held on the 3rd at Walt Branch Library in Lincoln. We viewed the webinar *Book Group Buzzing* that included list and reviews of 40 titles that might work well for book groups and book discussions. Titles included in the list that caught my attention were:

- *Before Ever After* by Samantha Sotto
- *Becoming Marie Antoinette* by Juliet Grey
- *The Metropolis Case* by Matthew Gallaway
- *The Bird Sisters* by Rebecca Rasmussen
- *Falling Together* by Marisa de los Santos
- *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon
- *The Sisters* by Nancy Jensen
- *By Nightfall* by Michael Cunningham



CASTL meetings are open to librarians of all types, library trustees and library friends or supporters. The meetings typically start at 10:00 a.m., and wrap up by 3:00 or 3:30. Each meeting has a dedicated topic of focus, as well as a round robin for discussion and sharing of current issues, topics and library happenings. Attendees earn continuing education hours and you are welcome to join us for all or even part of the day.

- December 8th – Pawnee City Public Library
- January 13th - Geneva Public Library
- February 9th—Auburn Memorial Library
- March 23rd—Crete Public Library
- April 27th—Alice M. Farr library - Aurora
- June 1st—Seward Memorial Library

- *Glow* by Amy Kathleen Ryan

The webinar also provided some tips in forming book groups and some ideas for non-traditional groups. One was to try a magazine discussion group which spun off of an idea in the Washington Post about a group organized to discuss *The New Yorker*. (The New Yorker Group: A book club for the on-the-go Washingtonian by Dan Kois, April 22, 2011) Panelists also suggested a short story group, either as a part of a regular group or as its own group. They also gave examples of book discussion groups that have been started as a social event that are more casual and not as structured. One referred to was the LitLounge through Skokie Public Library in Illinois – a social book discussion group that meets every month outside the library where you can grab a drink, discuss books and meet new people. (http://www.skokie.lib.il.us/s_read/rd_discussion/LitLounge.asp). The Oak Park Public Library (IL) has a book discussion group for readers in their twenties and thirties — genre X — that meets monthly at a local restaurant (www.genre-x.com/). There's also the Books & Bars group that meets in Minneapolis and promotes itself this way: "Books & Bars isn't your mother's book club. We provide a unique atmosphere for a lively discussion of interesting authors, fun people, good food and drinks." (<http://booksandbars.com/>).

You can also check out the Book Group Buzz (A Booklist Blog) that provides book group tips, reading lists, and literary news from Booklist Online. If you are interested in additional webinars put on by Booklist Online you can find information on their website at: www.booklistonline.com/webinars. If you look at the programs already in the archive there are a "zillion" to choose from focusing on all types of reader niches and genres. The webinars can easily be viewed from your computer and submitted for continuing education hours to NLC.

{CASTL Wrap Up}

Sowings, continued from front page

(Continued from page 1)

Shusterman's presentation style is focused on having a conversation and discussion with youth which is refreshing. It was obvious from the start that kids wanted to talk about *Unwind* – and he did not shy away from that dialogue. It was another demonstration of why we need to avoid surface hype perhaps by understanding the author's interest in creating the story. For example, the idea for *Unwind* resulted from three news stories that got Shusterman's attention:

- A story about why England is afraid of their youth and “feral” teens that were terrorizing communities. One comment from an adult interviewed for the story was that the “kids needed to be rounded up and done away with”. Shusterman started thinking about where we draw the line between saying and doing.
- An article about why individuals voted for certain candidates that asked voters, “If the candidate you support changed their stance on one issue, would that cause you to remove your support for that candidate?” Overwhelmingly, people said no. They were then asked if that one issue was abortion – would that cause them to change their support of the candidate? Overwhelmingly, no matter which side of the issue they were on, individuals responded yes – they would no longer support that candidate. Shusterman started thinking about officials being elected based on one issue.
- The story of the first face transplant for a French

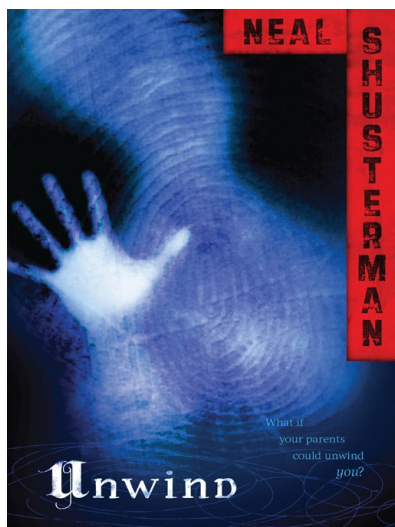


Neal Shusterman with Ralson Area Librarians

the line between life and death, and if organs and tissue and more can be used and divided in other people when are you no longer alive? What happens to your soul if you are caught between life and death?

Shusterman went on to explain that *Unwind* was intended to encourage readers to rise above politics and look at the issues and think about them in a fresh way. His goal was to remain neutral without putting forward a pro-abortion or stem cell or cloning or organ donation position ... He just wanted to create a scenario where we could think about those very personal issues. He also wanted to show the unintended consequences of the decisions we make as individuals and as society as a whole.

It's always a great opportunity to hear authors talk about their writing and what inspires and intrigues them and why they do what they do. In hearing Shusterman speak to students at Blair Middle School and Ralston High School I was also privileged to see teenagers able to discuss what have become volatile topics in a considerate manner. That demonstration is a model that adults and candidates for office could benefit in attempting to imitate in our discussions, debates and dialogue – as well as renewed importance for the presence of libraries in providing space and materials that don't cater to a particular populace or idea.



woman mauled by a dog and the advancement of medical science to do this so successfully. Along with this story was a prediction that 100% of the human body will soon be able to be donated. Shusterman started thinking about that and

**SELS BOARD MEETING
JULY 26, 2011 10 a.m.
Freeman Public Schools, Adams, NE**

Board Members Present: Becky Baker (Seward Memorial Library); Carolyn Bennett (Beatrice Public Library); Barbara Hegr (Morton-James Public Library); Wanda Marget (Fairmont Public Library); Kent Munster (The Clark Enerson Partners); Hilary Sire (Barnes & Noble); Robin Sugden (Freeman Public Schools); Jan Thomsen (Alice M. Farr Library); Glenda Willnerd (Lincoln Public Schools District Office, Retired).

Also Present: Brenda Ealey (SELS Administrator); Jen Barnason (SELS Administrative Assistant).

Board Members Absent: Scott Childers (UNL Libraries); Karen Frank (Greenwood Public Library); Carol Oltman (Beatrice High School)

Consent Agenda

June 30, 2011 Minutes

A correction was made to the Friends Report to read the "same Board members were elected" instead of "same officers".

Financial Report

Under income – Carryover funds from 2010/2011 instead of 2009/2010.

Consent agenda was approved with corrections (moved by Baker, seconded by Sugden.)

Administrator's Report

Brenda highlighted items from her activities from June 30 to July 26, 2011. Her list of upcoming events and meetings was also noted. A list of donations from SELS to the Goodwill Electronic Store was shared – this is a list of equipment no longer used and/or replaced. The entire Administrator's Report is available upon request from the SELS office.

SELS Friends Report

Friends Annual Meeting will be held in August. The Book Fair at Barnes & Noble earned about \$110 and the Harry Potter movie earned about \$80. Scholarship applications will be accepted until August 12 with \$150 available for scholarship awards this year. SELS Friends voted to fund the SELS request for office renovation and the journal routing program – amount up to \$3,000. Cook-books still on sale for \$10.00

NLC Report

There was no specific report from the Library Commission. Brenda reported on the NLC Commissioners' Meeting which was held July 8, 2011. Topics of discussion: NLC maintenance of effort for IMLS; ALTAFF switching name to Citizens for Libraries (Rod Wagner is a nominee for President's office); Gates Foundation is putting money into benchmarks for technology that could be used as incentives for libraries of all sizes; NLC received a Nebraska Arts Council grant for \$5,754 for One Book for Nebraska Teens Author Tour with Neal Shusterman; and John Dale was elected Commission Chair, Steve Batty Vice-Chair.

2011/2012 Meeting Schedule

October 26 at Fairmont

December 16 at Lincoln

February 17 at Pawnee City

April 20 at Plattsmouth

Committee Assignments for 2011/2012

Continuing Education: Becky Baker, Carolyn Bennett, Ruth Carlock, Karen Frank, Carol Oltman, Jan Thomsen.

Marketing and Promotion: Scott Childers, Wanda Marget, Kent Munster, Hilary Sire, Robin Sugden, Glenda Willnerd.

Executive Committee: Barbara Hegr, Glenda Willnerd, Carolyn Bennett.

The SELS survey will be sent out to libraries in August.

Board members are encouraged to review the welcome packet which is presented to new board members and comment on any needed changes.

Ruth Carlock was nominated to complete the unexpired term on the SELS Board due to the resignation of Barbara Cornelius (moved by Willnerd, seconded by Baker, motion carried.)

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Submitted by Carolyn Bennett, Secretary

Southeast Library System

**Serving libraries in the counties
of:**

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November 2011

We have the luxury of making
things relevant and fun. That's
where the joy is as a librarian.
-Nancy Busch, UNL

Southeast Library System is a multi-type library network with 248 members offering a wide range of service in public, school, academic, institutional and private libraries (Membership list with populations from 2000 Census are on the SELS web page: www.selsne.org.) Membership includes 12 academic institutions, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, four private colleges, three community college campuses, a state college and a technical school. Fifty-four public libraries are system members. The majority of these libraries (34) serve populations fewer than 1,000. The system counts 146 school media centers among its members, 54 that are Lincoln Public Schools, with most of those belonging to Class 3 schools (population areas between 1,000 and 100,000). Fourteen of the school media centers are parochial. The system has 28 special and institutional members, most of which are located in Lancaster County.